

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATION.

F. B. CARPENTER, M. D., Chairman.

Among the many bills introduced in the Legislature at the session just closed, those affecting medical matters were quite numerous; as for that matter they are at every session, and seem to be annually on the increase. Of them all, however, but two received serious consideration at the hands of the Sacramento Solons. One of these was a bill drawn in the interest of the Naturopaths, establishing a Board of Naturopaths, to be appointed by the Governor, and legalizing those already practicing Naturopathy in the State. This bill had a large following in both houses, was championed by strong leaders and stood a good prospect of passing as it was framed. In lieu of this an amendment to the present medical law was finally drafted which admitted to practice (legilized) those Naturopaths who were already in practice and required all Naturopaths who might hereafter apply for license to practice, to take the examinations of the State Board.

This bill as amended was finally passed, signed by the Governor, and is now a part of the State Medical Law. After the passage of this bill another bill, putting the appointment of the Board of Examiners in the hands of the Governor, and establishing reciprocity with other States, passed both houses, and needed only the Governor's signature to make it a law, when it would have replaced the present amended statute and we would have enjoyed the luxury of a political Board, and the privilege of exchanging compliments with other States, the standards of which are as questionable as would be the policy of the average political Board.

After this bill had passed both houses, Dr. Parkinson, who at the time was keeping in close touch with the Legislature and their doings, succeeded in securing its reconsideration by the Senate, when it was fortunately defeated by a small majority. It has always been the policy of your Legislative Committee, and we believe it to be the correct policy, to oppose any legislation which will place the appointment of the Board of Examiners in the hands of the Governor. Such an appointing power is undesirable, not that the Governor would not do his duty according to his best advice, but that he must depend for that advice upon consultation with a few of his personal friends or acquaintances, rather than upon the collective judgment of the assembled profession. It has, also, been our policy to oppose reciprocity with other States, for the reason that many States recognize the certificates issued by other States; and to recognize one, recognizes all with which that one may reciprocate; and as there are many lax and political Boards throughout the country, such a course would expose California to an influx of licentiates with all sorts of credentials. The high standing of the California State Board has gone abroad through the land, and since we have set the mark high, let us maintain it.

I recall that some years ago the address of the President of this Society dealt very liberally with

the question of "the Doctor in Politics." It was forcibly argued that the doctor should take an interest in public questions, and it was shown wherein he might be of service to the general public.

Now, here is further argument why he should under certain conditions, become a public man, so-called. The medical man, as a member of the State Legislature, is well qualified to pass upon many questions coming before that body. Much matter of importance is referred to him by his colleagues, and his judgment and opinion respected by those with whom he associates. Experience in matters political has shown the advisability of there being more medical men in the State Legislature. The medical man in either house can do more to correct the ways of the average politician than can a whole County Medical Society from afar. I know of no one better fitted to adorn politics than the doctor, and to him we look to make political position an honor, and to reflect credit upon his party and his profession.

Now, adopt the practical side of this question, and make it your business within the coming year and years, to see that when there is a legislative opening in your district, that it is filled by a doctor. It will be to his credit, to your advantage and to the advantage of all the people.

## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE YEAR 1908-1909.

F. C. E. MATTISON, M. D., Chairman.

Mr. President and Members of the Society:

The work of the Public Health Commission during the last year has been largely educational, the major efforts being directed to inducing the country public health committees to take up the work in more aggressive fashion.

As the commission has striven to solve the many problems still before us, it began to realize the needs of a closer and more comprehensive organization; an organization that would weld together in a federated union all the public health agencies of California, viz.—the California State Board of Health, the California Public Health Officers Association, the Public Health Commission of the Society, the District Public Health Officers Association, and the County Medical Association Public Health Committees, and in an advisory capacity all other organizations and individuals working for these same ends.

A call has therefore been issued for such a meeting to be held at San Jose during this meeting, and it is hoped that that conference will enable such a union to be brought about.

There is a great need for concentrating all public health activities in a central body and of giving to our State Board of Health, the power that is now distributed among some lay boards, like the Dairy Commission.

As a majority of the members of the Executive Committee of this Public Health Commission live in Southern California, they have sought personally

to become further acquainted with the public health needs of the communities of that section.

The production of clean milk by all dairies, the need of enforcing the tuberculin test on all dairy cattle in California, the inauguration and maintenance of certified dairies, the need of securing better laws for the supervision of the dairy industry of California, have taken much time and effort in their study. The enforcement of the pure food laws, the disposal of garbage and sewage, the adequate inspection of bake-shops and other establishments producing food stuffs have been other subjects of discussion and investigation.

The efforts put forth to secure for Los Angeles a scientific disposal of sewage, which would be a model for other cities in the State necessitated many meetings with committees from various civic bodies and will no doubt result in better regulation of the very important measure.

This lack of organization among the profession prevented any strong effort being made during the recent State Legislature, to bring about the passage of laws on dairy inspection. This lack of organization was made even more manifest when our State medical law was in jeopardy. In this connection we may state that we secured from Dr. George H. Simmons, editor of the *Journal of the A. M. A.*, several hundred copies of the last report of the Association of American Medical Colleges, and distributed a copy of this report with other literature in support of high medical standards to members of the Senate and Assembly.

During the past year the members of the Public Health Commission have given some thirty or more lectures before various clubs, organizations and medical societies, these lectures being on public health matters, dairies and dairy conditions or tuberculosis. An effort was made to defeat the proposed manner of disposal of garbage in Los Angeles and have a modern reduction plant installed, but the City Council will renew the old contract and permit the greater part of its garbage to be fed to hogs.

Without in any way infringing on the rights, this committee had made several hundred slides, showing tuberculosis conditions, and in conjunction with the California Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, we have taken a part in the organization of Anti-Tuberculosis Societies, south of the Tehachapi Mountains.

The members of this commission residing in Los Angeles County are members of the Los Angeles County Medical Milk Commission and for the year 1908 personally inspected the Certified Milk Dairy at El Monte, and Dr. Black of our commission, made all bacteriological and chemical examinations of milk without cost to the commission. The fees resulting from the certification of this dairy by a vote of the Los Angeles County Society were given to the Medical Milk Commission to be used in public health work; this made it possible for us to secure lantern slides, and defrayed the expenses incident to our public health lectures, at no cost to the State Medical Society.

There has been a large portion of the work of the

Public Health Commission that has been purely educational, and in view of the fact that many of our lectures were public meetings, open to the laity, and in almost every instance there was a large attendance, we feel that some good may come of this work.

We have seen very forcibly that medical legislation of inestimable value to the State is absolutely necessary in the near future, and would recommend that the Legislative Committee of the State Medical Society be enlarged so that it can contain from two to four members in every legislative district, and that work be started immediately. With two years ahead of us, we feel that much could be done in being a factor in this election of our Legislature two years hence. If the policy that has been pursued in the past,—waiting until the legislature convenes and then making a hasty scramble to get two or three of our members to go to Sacramento to lobby against an organized lobby, be continued, we will meet with defeat, as we have done in the past legislature, when the spectacle of some thirty or forty, secured legislation which was opposed by every member of our medical society.

We must organize, and organize at once, and unless we do organize, the medical profession of the State of California will never secure for the State, legislation that is absolutely essential.

The scope of work before the Public Health Commission is simply without limit. The production of unadulterated milk and other sanitary conditions, the prevention of contamination of water supplies of our people, the adequate and sanitary disposal of garbage, wastes and sewage, and prevention of atmospheric pollution by smoke and gases, the erection of sanitary houses and work shops, the supervision by the State of the conditions under which laboring men, women and children work,—these are a few of the problems facing this State along public health lines, and are a few of the problems concerning which your commission has been striving to educate the public and the profession.

The work has been handicapped by lack of funds and the indifference of many of whom we have a real right to expect support. But, the work is a righteous and a needed one, and increased effort can only mean increased success. We believe each year will see better and better results accrue from this organized effort to safeguard the public health interests of our State, and believe also that this Society should pledge itself anew to continue its efforts in these directions.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS.

GEORGE H. EVANS, M. D., Chairman.

The work of the Committee on Tuberculosis of the Medical Society of the State of California during the past year has not been as productive of results as the committee would have desired. When it held its first meeting, June 2nd, 1908, it was decided that the most useful thing that it could do was to gather all available data in regard to the